

Claim Amendments

This listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1-2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) A pipe joint comprising a male first pipe portion, a female second pipe portion, a compression gland securable with an externally tightenable fastener to the female second pipe portion, and a restraining gasket, said gasket further comprising:

- a) a deformable body; and
- b) a locking member, at least partially embedded within the deformable body, wherein at least a portion of the locking member is positioned to engage the first pipe portion,

wherein said locking member is adapted to adopt a position in which

- (i) the locking member bites into the first pipe portion and the second pipe portion upon compression of the gland against ~~said; gasket~~ said gasket by the tightening of the fastener; and
- (ii) said locking member resists movement of said first pipe portion in a direction outward of the second pipe portion by transferring a first portion of an extractive force to said gland and transferring a second portion of such force directly to an interior surface of the second pipe portion, which said first portion and said second portion are each of a magnitude less than the magnitude of the extractive force.

Claims 4 – 10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) A pipe joint as in Claim 3, wherein the deformable body of said gasket further comprises a plurality of density regions, wherein said regions are adapted to influence the movement of said locking member.

Claims 13 – 16 (Cancelled)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) A restraining gasket for securely joining a male first pipe portion to a female second pipe portion, the latter having a bell tightenably connected by bolts to a ~~and a tightenable~~ compression gland, the gasket

placeable in snug engagement with the male first pipe portion ~~between~~, the bell being above the gasket and the compression gland being to the rear of the gasket, wherein the gasket comprises a deformable body and a locking segment configured so that the locking segment engages the first male pipe portion and forms a rear-most angle, which is acute in the extraction direction, between the male first pipe portion and a lower surface of the locking segment, and so that other portions of the locking segment simultaneously engage the bell and the gland at points not adjacent the male first pipe portion.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) A pipe joint as in Claim 3 in which the interior surface of the second pipe portion, to which the second portion of the force is transferred, is disposed substantially parallel to the axis of the second pipe portion.

Claim 19 (New) A pipe joint as in Claim 3 wherein the externally tightenable fastener comprises a bolt.

Claim 20 (New) A pipe joint comprising a male first pipe portion, a gasket in contact with an outside of the male first pipe portion and also in contact with an internal surface of a female second pipe portion, a locking segment within the gasket that is in contact with both the male first pipe portion and the female second pipe portion, and a compression gland about the male first pipe portion that has an inner diameter greater than an outer diameter of the male pipe portion, wherein said locking member is adapted to adopt a position in which the locking member bites into the male first pipe portion and the female second pipe portion upon movement of the gland toward the female second pipe portion.

Claim 21 (New) A pipe joint as in Claim 20, wherein the locking segment directly contacts the compression gland at a location that is closer to the female pipe portion than to the male first pipe portion.